

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05496 162255 Z

16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-02

SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /109 W
----- 083331

R 151454 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8780
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINTEREST CAIRO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USINTEREST SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5496

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, GR, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW/ ATHENS AIR LINK TO OPEN SOON

1. GREEK EMBOFF TELLS US MOSCOW/ ATHENS AIR LINK WILL OPEN
WITH INAUGURAL FLIGHT ON JUNE 2. SCHEDULE CALLS FOR WEEKLY
AEROFLOT FLIGHT (PRESUMABLY IL-62) FROM MOSCOW TO ATHENS
ENROUTE TO CAIRO AND ADEN ON SATURDAYS, TRACING SAME ROUTE
BACK TO MOSCOW ON SUNDAYS.

2. SINCE GREEKS VIEW OLYMPIC FLIGHTS TO MOSCOW AS UNPROFITABLE,
SOVIETS HAVE AGREED IN EXCHANGE TO ALLOW GREEK AIRLINE TO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05496 162255 Z

TRANSIT USSR ENROUTE TO TOKYO WITH STOP IN TASHKENT.

3. ACCORDING TO GREEK EMBOFF, SOVIET EAGERNESS FOR EXPANDED ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE HAS MOVED INTO HIGHER GEAR FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF ATHENS/ PEKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ASKED IF IMPROVED ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS, GREEK EMBOFF REPLIED IN NEGATIVE ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIET BUREAUCRACY ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS HAS IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, GREEK GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO VIEW MOSCOW WITH DEEP SUSPICION BUT HAS DECIDED TO SEEK ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES BY PLAYING IN MOSCOW/ PEKING COMPETITION.

DUBS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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